

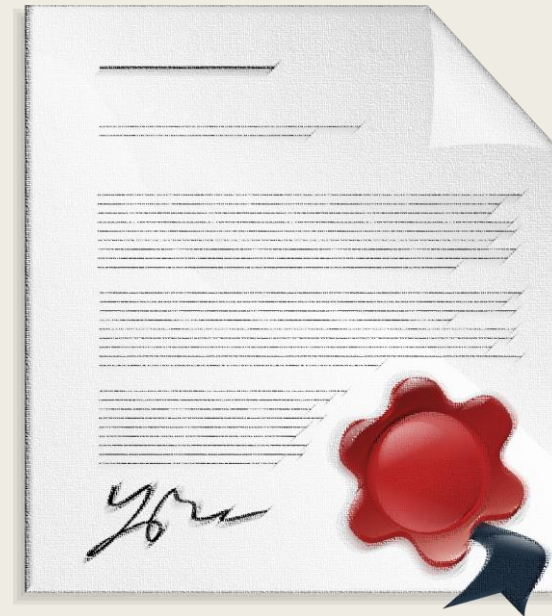
VITAL RECORDS: WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO



Missouri Department of
Health & Senior Services

What are Vital Records?

- Permanent government issued legal records that document life events
 - Births
 - Deaths
 - Fetal deaths
 - Marriages
 - Divorces



Responsibility for Vital Records

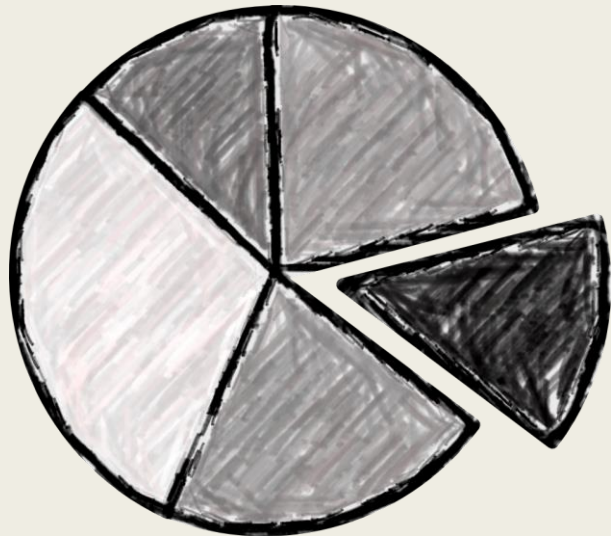
- In the United States, the legal authority to register birth and deaths lies at the state level within 57 jurisdictions (50 states, 2 cities, and 5 territories)
- The 57 jurisdictions share death record information with the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- The compiled national natality and mortality statistics inform a variety of medical and health-related research efforts

History of Vital Records

- **Colonial Days:** Legal documents were used to protect individual property rights
- **18th-19th century:** Records were used to track cholera, yellow fever, and typhoid epidemics
- **In 1833** only Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New Orleans required birth and death reports
- **Late 1800's:** Records functioned as an ability to measure progress in public health
- **1910:** Statewide registration began in Missouri
- **1950-present:** Growing public health and research needed

Major Uses of Vital Records

- Public health statistics and research



- Legal and administrative



Public Health and Research Uses

- Community Health Assessments
- Infant mortality disparities
- Effectiveness of Safe Cribs program
- Epidemiologic study on one million U.S. radiation workers
- Life expectancy by demographic factors

Other Public Health and Research Uses of Missouri Mortality Data

- Partner with Missouri Department of Labor on identifying fatal occupational injuries to improve worker safety
- Surveillance of pneumonia and influenza mortality, communicable and infectious disease mortality, and weather-related deaths, among others
- Emerging issues such as hospital associated infections and drug overdose deaths

Legal and Administrative Purposes

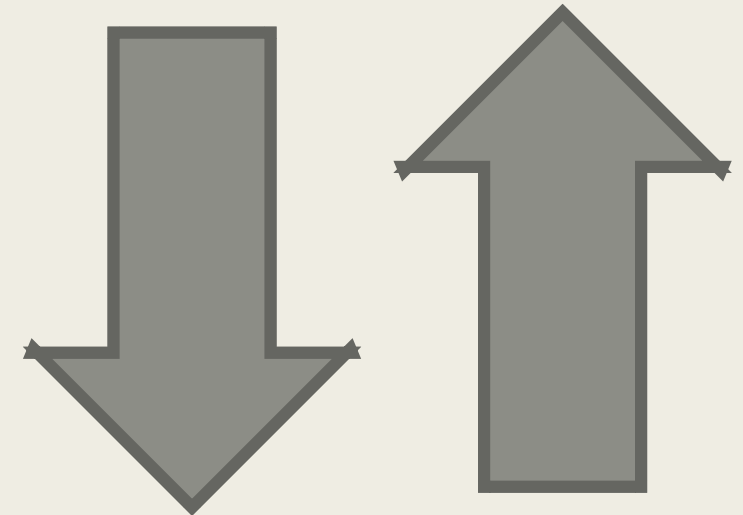
- Obtain identity documents (passport, DL)
- Enroll in benefits programs
- Settle estates & obtain life insurance payouts
- Terminate benefits (social security, pension)
- Remove names from voter rolls and jury pools

How Are Vital Records Processed?

- The **Missouri Electronic Vital Records (MoEVR)** system, operated by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services – Bureau of Vital Records, exists to support the electronic registration of vital records, such as birth and death certificates, in Missouri
- **Births** in Missouri usually involve a hospital and are entered into MoEVR by a birth certificate clerk
- **Deaths** in Missouri usually involve a funeral director, medical certifier, and usually an embalmer

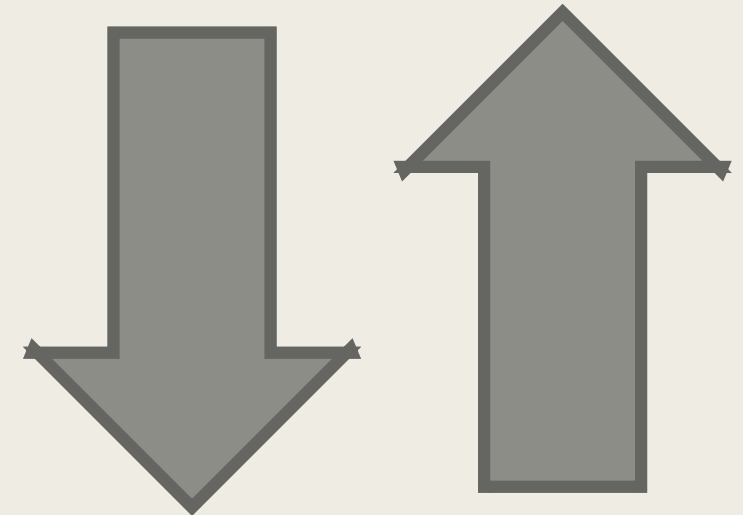
Birth Registration Data Flow

- Birth occurs
- Hospital reports to BVR (Bureau of Vital Records)
- BVR reviews data for quality
 - *If needed, BVR follows up with hospital*
- BVR shares data with mother's state of residence
- BVR submits birth data to CDC/NCHS
- CDC/NCHS reviews data for quality
 - *If needed, CDC/NCHS follows up with BVR*
 - *If needed, BVR follows up with hospital*
- BVR submits final complete year end data to CDC/NCHS
- CDC/NCHS conducts final data quality review
 - *If needed, CDC/NCHS follows up with BVR*
 - *If needed, BVR follows up with hospital*
- BVR/CDC/NCHS each release aggregate vital statistics data



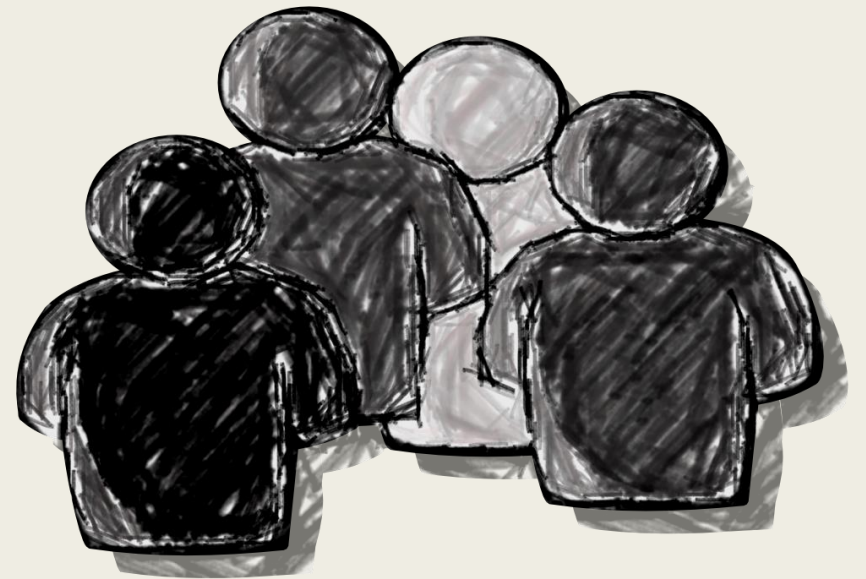
Death Registration Data Flow

- Funeral Home
 - *reports decedent's demographic data*
- Attending physician, PA, AP or APR
 - *certifies natural causes of death*
- Medical examiner/coroner
 - *certifies and reports external causes and unknown manner or unattended death*
- All information is then transmitted to the Bureau of Vital Records for registration
- BVR shares data with decedent's state of residence
- BVR submits death data to CDC/NCHS
- CDC/NCHS reviews data for quality
 - *If needed, CDC/NCHS follows up with BVR*
 - *If needed, BVR follows up with funeral home and/or medical certifier*
- BVR submits final complete year end data to CDC/NCHS
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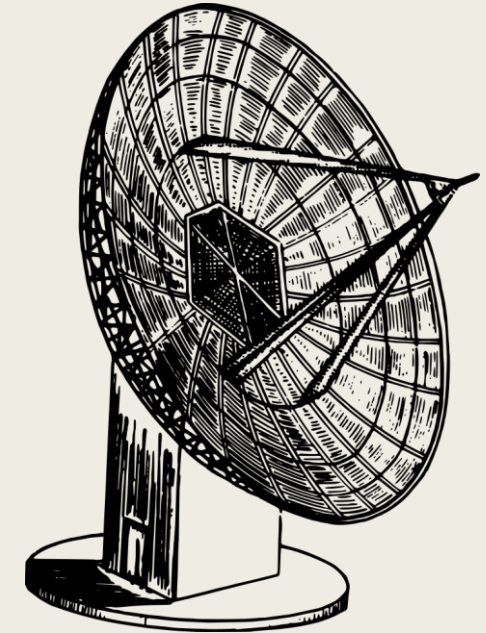
Federal and State Partners

- **National Center for Health Statistics at CDC**
 - *Vital Statistics Cooperative Program*
 - *National Death Index*
- **Social Security Administration**
 - *Enumeration at Birth*
 - *Fact of Death*
- **State Partners**
 - *DSS, MoHealthNet Division*
 - *Office of State Courts Administrator*



Vital Records Going Forward

- Enhance data quality
 - *Feedback to data sources*
 - *Training of data providers*
- Improve timeliness
 - *Reduce paper certificates*
 - *Increased physician adoption of MoEVR*
- Enhance performance
 - *Build on the features in the electronic system*
 - *Look to future needs that need to be incorporated*



Contact Vital Records

Bureau of Vital Records

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www.health.mo.gov/vitalrecords

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